

**TSWAN Meeting Minutes**  
**June 17-18, 2009**  
**Grand Ronde, OR**  
**Hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**

**ATTENDANCE:** Bill Denton, *Coeur d'Alene Tribe*; Danny Joe Stensgar, Pete Palmer, *Colville Confederated Tribes*; Lewis Younger, *Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde*; Hans Apokedak, *Levelock Village*; Steve Pendleton, *Makah Tribe*; Eddy Chu, *Muckleshoot Tribe*; Ron Wassillie, *Newhalen Tribal Council*; John Wheaton, *Nez Perce Tribe*; Amanda Squartsoff, *Port Lions*; Cynthia Farlow, *Siletz Tribe*; Cindy Spiry, *Snoqualmie Tribe*; David Ernst, *Spokane Tribe*; Bonnie Burke, *Umatilla Tribe*; Derald Ortloff, Loretta Zammarchi, *Yakama Nation*; Kami Snowden, Anne Bailey, Elaine Welk, *TSWAN*.

**Absent Tribes:** *AVCP; Chehalis; Cheesh-Na; Chignik; Kalispel; Kootenai; Larsen Bay; Nunakauyarmiut; Native Village of Eklutna; Native Village of Venetie; Old Harbor Village;; Shoshone-Bannock; Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak; Tulalip Tribe; Warm Springs.*

**Guests in Attendance:** Kelcee Palmer, *Colville Tribe*; Al LaTourette, Laurie Fry, *USEPA*; Lawrence Hawk, *Trellis Earth Products*; Bridget Ray, *Sparrowhawk*; Mike Willis, *U of W*.

Kami Snowden, Executive Director of TSWAN welcomed the members present and thanked them for attending. She thanked Lewis Younger of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde for hosting the meeting and turned the meeting over to him for welcoming comments and an itinerary of the facilities tour he had arranged for TSWAN members.

Lewis gave some historical background, stating how the Grand Ronde had originally had 70,000 acres which they lost in 1954. They were then reinstated in 1984 and given 6900 acres back, to which they have added about 200 acres in land purchases. All development since that time has been overseen by elected members and implemented under the Strategic Community Development Plan which answered the main question, "What do we want to come home to?"

We toured the new plank house which is currently under construction with the supervision of tribal historian, Dr. David Lewis. It is expected to seat 300 when finished. We then drove through one of the housing projects where tribal members live. Applicants get on the waiting list and the housing is built in phases. There are hourly security patrols. Next, we drove through the elder housing area. It serves members 55 and older. When need is determined by the health and wellness center, members move to assisted living. There, 24 hour care is available to the six residents per house. At the elderly activity center, we found many people enjoying their leisure time with activities or just relaxing and visiting. There was also an education center where resources are available from Head Start to adult continuing education. There are work out areas and daycare available. Education funding is available to any member who wishes to pursue higher education. The veteran's memorial was impressive also and is available to all who serve in a six county area. The government building was set up to provide offices as well as large meeting spaces and events.

After returning from the tour, Kami Snowden, Executive Director of TSWAN, introduced Laurie Fay of the EPA Lead-Based Paint Program. Laurie had spoken at the March TSWAN meeting and had an update on The Tribal Lead Program which she wanted to present to the tribes at the meeting. She had since attended a EPA Tribal Lead meeting in Denver and met with EPA Tribal Lead Representatives from all the regions and the Head of HUD's Healthy Homes Program, Eric Hornbuckle, from Washington DC, and the main topic of discussion was how to get rid of the difficult hoops that tribes are forced to jump through if they want a lead program. It was decided that the Tribal Lead Program should work towards more of a Healthy Homes Program that would include the EPA, HUD and the CDC to all work together to provide a program that tribes can access easily.

Once the EPA and HUD have gotten the CDC to join the group, they will be looking for tribal volunteers to help plan the final program. A new RFP for Vulnerable Population Lead Grant was announced and tribes were encouraged to apply. She said it is competitive and not just open to tribes. She talked about XRF guns which enable inspectors to find out if lead is present or not. Questions from the floor posed the problems tribes face when not trying to step on HUD's toes in addressing these issues through a Solid Waste Management perspective. Another announcement from Fay regarded an Idaho Healthy Homes Network Conference coming on September 15-17. The Certified Renovator Training that was going to take place at the conference has been replaced by Healthy Homes Initiative Training presented by UW. (Sept 15-17<sup>th</sup> in Boise, ID).

Danny Joe Stensgar suggested that Kami Snowden and Anne Bailey collaborate on "got green" grant application for Risk Assessment Certification. It must be tied to hazardous waste issues. Mike Willis of the UW said they might be able to collaborate on a construction and demolition grant as long as it has a solid waste tie in. Kami said she would need a rapid response back from those interested in the course.

Kami and Anne will also be presenting three, two day classes on the TSWAN Integrated Waste Management Plan Template. Anne has updated the C&D waste, the Brownfields and the medical waste parts of the template. The trainings will provide hands-on computer training (bring laptops) on the template, using information specific to each participant's tribe. The participants will leave the training with an IWMP draft, started specific for their tribal needs. They will receive training in researching information on the internet, the ability to train others on the use of the TSWAN template, ability to implement their plan and keep it updated, how to work with federal documents and state rules. There are some travel funds available to TSWAN member tribes in OR, WA and ID.

After the lunch break, Kami turned the meeting over to Bridget Ray who is working with SparrowHawk Consultants on the TSWAN Strategic Plan. She said they had a 41% return on the survey sent to TSWAN members and they considered that very good. The TSWAN Executive Board and Director had spent several hours the day before going over the results and working to refine the definitions of the TSWAN Mission Statement. Loretta Zammarchi of the Yakama Nation suggested it present "waste as a resource." David Ernst of the Spokane Tribe wanted a tight definition since solid waste is a interdisciplinary issue

which needs to be the focus. Lewis Younger of the Grand Ronde thought the Mission Statement should be more business oriented instead of philosophical. Many ideas and suggested wordings later, the group agreed to retain the new wording proposed by the Executive Board the day before. Bridget Ray said the TSWAN Strategic Plan is to set 3 to 5 year goals for the organization. She discussed whether or not TSWAN wants a more national role or to stay much like now. She plans to email a “goals and objectives” worksheet to members and asks that they be returned to: [info@sparrowhawkco.com](mailto:info@sparrowhawkco.com). The results will be presented at the next meeting.

She said members may also reach her directly at: [bray@squaxin.nsn.us](mailto:bray@squaxin.nsn.us) .

It was the end of the day and tribal updates were to be presented the next morning before the tribal caucus began.

THURSDAY, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The minutes from the December, 2008 meeting were reviewed with Lewis Younger motioning that they be accepted, and David Ernst seconding the motion. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the March, 2009 meeting were reviewed and Lewis Younger motioned they be accepted. Cindy Spiry seconded the motion. Upon vote the motion passed unanimously.

Kami Snowden then reviewed the Travel Policy of TSWAN and how travel is calculated.

Domenic Calabro, EPA WasteWise program, was introduced. His message was how the new Federal Stimulus Program could help tribes in making applications. The Umatilla's and Snoqualmie's are already members of the Wastewise program.

The Wastewise program is based upon waste prevention, recycling and purchasing of recycled goods. Any organization may join but there are very few tribes that belong. Enrollment requires a baseline and goals for recycling (What is being done? How much can it improve in 12 months). It requires a signature by a tribal official. Recycling can be directly related to greenhouse emissions. If you participate, EPA generates the reports for the reduction. These calculations can help when applying for Stimulus program monies. (\$10 million, no match for tribes). There is an annual awards ceremony. No grant program is tied to this program, but it looks very good as a backup. It individualizes a climate profile for members. TSWAN itself could be a member.

#### Tribal Updates

Yakama Nation – Loretta Zammarchi reports that the Yakama have their waste stream analysis nearly finished and they will be willing to share it. She attended a HAZWOPER training for all personnel. They had a housing fair and Earth Day activities at the longhouse for kids. They made paper and other crafts. EPA has done some inspections. The new

codes were just approved by the council. Infractions now range from \$5 to \$5000. Yakima County has been coming on the reservation with violations to tribal members. The new Code gives the authority back to the tribe.

Spokane Tribe – David Ernst says they are operating a residential pickup. Their compactor needs replacement due to age and condition. They applied for a new truck, but did not get funded. However, IHS decided on SDS to move Solid Waste up on ranking to be eligible for funding. They will allocate \$250K to West end dump closure. They are trying to get the transfer station operational. The USDA funding staff tries to steer them into loans and makes the determination they don't need grants. They have written a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture taking exception to the policy of USDA using their tribal financials.

Grand Ronde – Lewis Younger said they have a full time grant writer and senior managers are required to make applications for grants. They have applied so far for \$5 million and have received \$2.8 million. They have a no loan policy. They are looking for grants to help with solid waste services. Lewis said he has a list of the grant resources the Grand Ronde uses and they want to be an available source in helping grant process. They will help other tribes with these grant issues where they can.

Nez Perce – John Wheaton reported they would like to host the next meeting around the Tribal Leader Summit which the Nez Perce are hosting in September. They have a transfer station getting ready to be operational. Lapwai changed service providers, discovered MOA. The new contractor is a relative of city employee so there now appears to be a conflict of interest. John also wrote a RFP for contract services that will be finalized July 17<sup>th</sup>. The tribe sponsored Earth Day activities with shirts and posters. A local recycler, Lewis & Clark Recycling, has bins he wants to patent so he donated some to the tribe for their plastic and aluminum recycling program. They have a new proposed bill on waste to energy.

Colville Tribes – Pete Palmer said SparrowHawk is writing grants for implementation of their IWMP. It will require closing 3 dump sites. They have a car crusher setting up in the Omak district. The Colvilles are teaming with AmeriCorp for addressing illegal dumping. AC painted signs for no dumping, land respect, etc. Danny Joe Stensgar is working to get sites ready to close. There were some issues to be resolved, fires to put out and coverings needed. Their recycling program is running about 80% but they are having to compete with energy projects. Tribal members are being paid by non-member construction companies to dump on the reservation. Specialty Environmental is a large violator. Fines go back into the solid waste fund and not the general fund. There is a \$500 reward for the prosecution of illegal dumping.

Levelock Village – Hans Apokedak said they have done some community cleanup. The kids got to pick which streets to clean. This was followed by a BBQ. They are collecting and reusing diesel. They have a new heating fuel truck that is more environmentally sound. It was paid by the Alaska Energy Authority.

Muckleshoot Tribe – Eddy Chu says they have a transfer station and deliver their own wastes to several sites privately. They are upgrading 1/3 acre transfer site so they can sort

and combine travel costs more efficiently. They have 55 containers varying from 8 to 40 yards. The transfer station is on about 50 acre of a site being converted to trust land. Because the transfer station was located there, it requires extreme cleanup for trust. They are putting together HHW management to include in the overall IWMP. They are also improving the school systems and working on establishing recycling for the schools. They start contracting Sept 19<sup>th</sup> with Waste Management, Inc. They also have an IHS workshop on plan management.

Port Lions – Amanda Squartsoff told of their Earth Day Slogan contest. They gave away grocery bags to participants. They continue to barge metals for recycling. Amanda and one other employee have been certified in CFC recovery. They also sponsored a community cleanup and BBQ.

Ouzinkie Village – Jill Boskofsky says they have a population of 185. Their goal is to pull scrap metal from the landfill. They're a separate island off of Kodiak Island, so there are special problems in recycling they must solve like hauling and transportation. They are setting up an aluminum recycling program.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe – Bill Denton reports they have cleaned up some sites and placed signs on them. They have two SW grants (one USDA) to look at green practices and backyard composting. They have placed a couple of them at the community garden plots and both the tribal and public schools (which has a greenhouse project). These are to be used in education. An additional grant for HHW event which they hope to hold in September.

Newhalen Village – Ron Wassillie says they had a community cleanup day with the schools and then hold a picnic. They have scaled back on the environmental program. They applied for a site improvement plan for the dump but that was turned down because the site is too good and grants are going to places that have nothing or no programs.

Umatilla Tribe – Bonnie Burke said they were approached by IHS to update their SDS listing. They want to fence their transfer station and get additional containers. They received a USDA grant for automated truck and six 20-yard containers and the tribe contributed a match of \$64K. They sponsored an E-Waste collection and much of the electronics came from the casino. The tribe received a \$70K grant through the Stimulus bill for energy efficiency so they have been revising their codes and including them in the IWMP. The last goal for the IWMP is composting. They are applying for a grant purchase a tub grinder for yard waste at the transfer station. The quotes for the grinder are out. The new Codes are in draft and up for review and comment with other tribal departments. Once they are approved, the inspector will need to revise his codes to meet the SW codes. They had a surprise visit from DEQ with a new representative and subsequently received a letter of appreciation from DEQ stating the site was in good shape and they appreciated the access. Bonnie is serving on the Umatilla County SWAC.

Siletz Tribe – Cynthia Farlow, new to the TSWAN group, reported that she had not worked in SW very much and was there to listen.

Makah Nation – Steve Pendleton said the Makah are working to build a Resource Recovery Facility. The open dump is their highest priority now and their funding strategy is to request money for the closure and to begin work on developing a new facility. They are trying to approach it as a partner with federal agencies as a common interest. They finished talking with the agencies and said the agencies say they have no mechanism in place to distribute the monies. Now the Makah are approaching it as a shovel ready project. It has been elevated in priority because of the hazardous waste which is washing into the straight in that area. They are also working on a big junk car salvage and developing community outreach.

Snoqualmie Tribe – Cindy Spiry said they have finished their waste sort with Anne Bailey’s help. They are moving into other tribal offices and businesses to finish collecting data. Cindy is in the process of writing the IWMP using the TSWAN template. She is excited about the Template training coming up in Tulalip this August. They hosted an Earth Day event and had volunteers come out to clean up the Moses property. Signs and cameras are planned as soon as funding is available. They have applied for an open dump assessment grant but do not know if they have it yet.

Steve Pendleton and Danny Joe Stensgar are now serving on the Washington State SWAC committee. Steve reports they have developed a nomination committee and he gave an update on the legislative session. Ecology oversight, paper reduction, and e-waste component are the main topics being addressed at the state level, along with mercury lamp take back programs. CPG (Coordinated Prevention Grant) funded through the state toxics account, suffered a dramatic reduction from \$25 million to only \$10 million authorized. This biennium grant reduction necessitated the removal of positions as well. The “Beyond Waste” program is going through a 5-year updating process.

TSWAN wishes once again to thank Lewis Younger for planning and hosting this meeting in such a welcoming fashion.

The next meeting of TSWAN will take place September 16-17, 2009 in Lewiston, Idaho hosted by the Nez Perce Tribe and coincides with the Tribal Leaders Summit.

Having no further business to come before the organization, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.